

~~CIA INTERNAL USE ONLY~~

19 October 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR:

STAT The NEW YORK TIMES today renews its support of the Mansfield bill for a Congressional watchdog committee for CIA. Its editorial, "Controls for CIA", says Mansfield is trying to achieve "some kind of Congressional control over CIA." The TIMES wants that.

Congress now has "some kind of control" through its Appropriations and Armed Services Committees and very particularly through the Russell-George-Saltonstall-Wiley group. The TIMES wants "closer contact with the legislative authority" because CIA is "virtually beyond the law"--which is not true since CIA is a creature of Congress. The TIMES states that "no one in the legislative branch knows whether it (CIA) is doing a good, bad or indifferent job", but of course Congress does know from the President within whose executive authority the CIA functions and it reports to and takes directions from the NSC. Congress should not invade the executive function here but accept the Chief Executive's report as to the CIA's effectiveness.

The TIMES states unequivocally that "nobody in Congress knows whether CIA competes with the work of other agencies, whether it is building up a bureaucratic empire, whether it wastes money needlessly, gets into operations where it has no business to function and whether it takes foreign policy into its own hands." That's the whole and complete case. The TIMES quickly disclaims that these are charges--they are possibilities; the TIMES is suspicious. Then, oddly, the TIMES admits that CIA has loosely carried on relations with the Congress but again says that the Congress has little understanding of CIA's work.

This is Hanson Baldwin writing. He was a member of a Task Force for the first Hoover Commission inquiry into CIA several years ago. He has been outspoken in his belief that the Agency has too many employees, compared to Britain and Israel--he never mentions the Soviet strength--and that it has too many "klucks" in its employ. He is the Shining Knight in Armor for the military and reflects anti-CIA feeling from the Pentagon; not only from G-2, he told me, but from "higher up." It would appear that no time should be lost by CIA in building up a more correct atmosphere because of the far-flung influence of the TIMES. The Washington POST and TIMES HERALD can be expected to take the same position.

A chat by the DCI with Arthur Hays Sulzberger might be fruitful. I might invite Mr. Stone of the Editorial Research Reports in to meet the Director and in the course of the conference our position in relation to the Congress could be emphasized. The ERR covers more newspapers than any other editorial service. We could let Stone know that there are more than two sides to this question and the TIMES editorial is certainly contradictory and misleading. It makes allegations and then says that these are merely possibilities and may or may not exist.

STAT [] wants to get a group together for an off-the-record dinner with the DCI. A dinner early in November could be a vehicle for re-emphasizing the CIA viewpoint.

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Walter Trohan has been very friendly. The CHICAGO TRIBUNE did not use the Trudeau story and so informed me. Walter told me last week that he thinks Mr. Allen Dulles is doing pretty good and that Trohan is seeing more of John Foster Dulles and he, too, is doing a good job. "Guess I'm getting soft," Walter said. He asked me for luncheon this week. It might be helpful to bring Walter over to have a chat with the Director. The TRIBUNE has changed very much since Colonel McCormick's death.

Dick Rendell, of ABC, will be coming in ^{1 Nov. 1955} ~~next week~~ to meet the DCI. He is a strong CIA backer. We can get results from him.

It is regrettable that we do not have a group of people who would write letters to the editor of the TIMES disagreeing with the editorial. Twelve such letters has a big effect; twenty means a top level staff conference. Spotted from different parts of the East, they would be effective if done without delay.

STANLEY J. GROGAN

Enclosure - Editorial

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